

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Process for forming tubular labels made of heat shrinkable films and adhering them on bottles or containers, said process characterized by the fact that it provides providing the transfers of the bottles or containers into the formed tubular labels, so-called sleeves, by a down movement of said bottles or containers into the sleeve, wherein the process comprises: the steps of unwinding and cutting a heat shrinkable film from a reel for obtaining precut labels having a length slightly longer than a cross-section perimeter of the bottle; the step of transferring the precut label by a drum provided with areas for drawing the precut label, characterized by the fact it comprises the additional steps of:

winding the precut label on a rotating tubular-shaped plate supporting the container or bottle to be labelled;

sealing both vertical overlapped ends of the precut label in a predetermined position for obtaining a tubular label, said sealing step comprising heat sealing or adhesives;

removing the label from the tubular plate and transferring the plate and the container on it in order to insert the latter into the tubular label in the position in which the label will be located;

heating the container to heat shrink the label on the container.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 2 characterized by the fact the step of winding the precut label on the tubular plate is performed by establishing a negative or positive air pressure on the side surface of the plate.

4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 2 characterized by the fact the step of removing the tubular label from the tubular plate is performed by establishing a pressure or an air jet on the inner surface of the label.

5-9. (cancelled)